REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 3, 5-10, 12-19 and 21-28 have been amended. No claims have been added, and no claims have been canceled. Applicant has carefully considered the cited art and the Examiner's comments, and believes the claims patentably distinguish over the cited art in their present form. Reconsideration of the rejection is, accordingly, respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following comments.

The specification has been amended to correct typographical errors noted therein. No new matter has been introduced by any of the amendments. In addition, claims 1, 3, 5-10, 12-19 and 21-28 have been amended to correct typographical errors and to ensure clear antecedent basis for all terminology therein.

I.   **35 U.S.C. § 103, Obviousness – Claims 1-8, 10-17, 19-26, and 28**

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-8, 10-17, 19-26, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pinkert (Pinkert and Wear, Operating Systems, Concepts, Policies, and Mechanisms, Prentice Hall, 1989, pgs 4, 205-207). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In rejecting the claims, the Examiner states as follows:

> Regarding claim 1, Pinkert teaches "A security policy method comprising the steps of: associating wildcarded resource identifiers with a corresponding security policy (page 4, the third paragraph, i.e. resource management, guardian); and matching a resource identifier received in an access request to one of a list of said wildcarded resource identifiers, wherein said matching is determined in accordance with a predetermined set of precedence values, each precedence value of said set corresponding to a predetermined wildcard element (pages 205-207, i.e. aliases which are a type of wildcarding in the sense that more than one name is used with precedence values)".
>
> These passages of Pinkert do not explicitly teach "policy" in the sense of the claim.
>
> Nevertheless, it was well known in the art to keep the consistency of various sets of security techniques within a system at the level of a "policy" which is a logical way of solving a problem, instead of explicitly implementing only one set of security techniques at the level of a mechanism which is an explicit

implementation of such a policy – for the motivation of having flexibility in implementation..

Hence, it would have been obvious to those of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the claimed invention to modify Pinkert for the motivation noted in the previous paragraphs so as to teach the claimed invention.

Office Action dated November 15, 2005, pages 2-3.

Claim 1 of the present application is as follows:

1.   A security policy method comprising the steps of:
     associating wildcarded resource identifiers with a corresponding security policy; and
     matching a resource identifier received in an access request to one of a list of said wildcarded resource identifiers, wherein said matching is determined in accordance with a predetermined set of precedence values, each precedence value of said predetermined set of precedence values corresponding to a predetermined wildcard element.

Applicant respectfully submits that Pinkert does not disclose or suggest either the step of "associating wildcarded resource identifiers with a corresponding security policy" or the step of "matching a resource identifier received in an access request to one of a list of said wildcarded resource identifiers, wherein said matching is determined in accordance with a predetermined set of precedence values, each precedence value of said predetermined set of precedence values corresponding to a predetermined wildcard element" as recited in claim 1.

In rejecting the claims, the Examiner refers to page 4, third paragraph, of Pinkert as disclosing the step of "associating wildcarded resource identifiers with a corresponding security policy". Page 4, third paragraph of Pinkert is as follows:

Although the resource manager and interface approaches provide comprehensive descriptions, the operating system is also some more specialized things. For example, the operating system is a *coordinator*. It makes it possible for complex activities to be performed in a predefined order. The operating system is a *guardian*. It sets up access controls to protect files, allows restrictions on the reading, writing, or executing of data and programs, and keeps users out of each other's hair and out of its own. It may even control who can log into the system.

Nowhere in the above recitation is there any disclosure or a suggestion of the claimed step of "associating wildcarded resource identifiers with a corresponding security policy". Pinkert discloses only that it is known that an operating system can set up access controls to protect files, and to allow restrictions on the reading, writing or executing of data or programs. Nowhere does the reference disclose how this may be accomplished. The reference does not at all disclose wildcarded resource identifiers, and certainly does not disclose associating wildcarded resource identifiers with a corresponding security policy.

As indicated above, the Examiner acknowledges that Pinkert does not explicitly teach "policy" in the sense of the claim. Applicant agrees. Pinkert also does not teach wildcarded resource identifiers, and does not teach or suggest "associating wildcarded resource identifiers with a corresponding security policy".

Pinkert also does not teach or suggest the claimed step of "matching a resource identifier received in an access request to one of a list of said wildcarded resource identifiers, wherein said matching is determined in accordance with a predetermined set of precedence values, each precedence value of said predetermined set of precedence values corresponding to a predetermined wildcard element". The Examiner refers to pages 205-207 of Pinkert as disclosing this step, and suggests that an alias is a type of wildcarding. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

An alias, as described in Pinkert, is simply a mechanism that allows users to reference the same physical file by different logical names. An alias is not a wildcarded resource identifier, nor does the description of an alias in Pinkert constitute a teaching of "matching a resource identifier received in an access request to one of a list of said wildcarded resource identifiers, wherein said matching is determined in accordance with a predetermined set of precedence values, each precedence value of said predetermined set of precedence values corresponding to a predetermined wildcard element" as recited in claim 1. Pinkert does not disclose "matching a resource identifier received in an access request to one of a list of said wildcarded resource identifiers", nor does the reference disclose "a predetermined set of precedence values", or that "each precedence value of said predetermined set of precedence values corresponding to a predetermined wildcard element".

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Page 14 of 16
Bartley – 09/896,200
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In the absence of any disclosure in Pinkert of the steps of the method recited in claim 1, one of ordinary skill in the art having Pinkert before him would not find the present invention obvious in view of Pinkert. Accordingly, claim 1 is not unpatentable over Pinkert and should be allowable thereover in its present form.

Claims 2-8 depend from and further restrict claim 1, and should also be allowable over Pinkert, at least by virtue of their dependency. In rejecting claims 2-8, the Examiner states only that that the features recited in the claims are well-known in the art. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Applicant believes, in fact, that many of these claims recite additional features that are not disclosed or suggested in Pinkert and that patentably distinguish over Pinkert.

For example, claim 4 requires that the list of wildcarded resource identifiers comprises an ordered list of wildcarded resource identifiers, and that the ordered list be ordered in accordance with the predetermined set of precedence values; and claim 5 specifies the method for sequentially comparing the resource identifier received in an access request with each wildcarded resource identifier in the ordered list. Again Pinkert discloses only that an operating system may set up access controls, but does not discuss how this may be done. Claims 4 and 5, accordingly, should be allowable in their own right as well as by virtue of their dependency from claim 1.

Claims 6-8 recite further details of the security policy method of the present invention which are not disclosed or suggested by Pinkert, and these claims should also be allowable over Pinkert in their present form.

Independent claims 10, 19 and 28 recite features that are similar to those recited in claim 1, and these claims should also be allowable in their present form for similar reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 1. Claims 11-17 depend from and further restrict claim 10, and claims 20-26 depend from and further restrict claim 19; and these claims should also be allowable in their present form by virtue of their dependency and for the reasons discussed above with respect to claims 4-8.

Therefore, the rejection of claims 1-8, 10-17, 19-26, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 has been overcome.

II.   35 U.S.C. § 103, Obviousness – Claims 9, 18, and 27

The Examiner has rejected claims 9, 18, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pinkert (Pinkert and Wear, Operating Systems, Concepts, Policies, and Mechanisms, Prentice Hall, 1989; pgs 4, 205-207) and Whitney (http://www.eli.sdsu.edu/courses/spring99/cs696/notes/security/security.html). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 9, 18 and 27 depend from and further restrict one of claims 1, 10 and 19. Whitney does not supply the deficiencies in Pinkert as described above, and claims 9, 18 and 27 should be allowable in their present form, at least by virtue of their dependency.

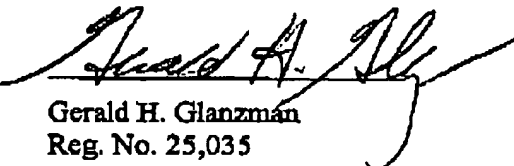Therefore, the rejection of claims 9, 18, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 has been overcome.

III.   Conclusion

For all the above reasons, it is respectfully urged that claims 1-28 are allowable in their present form, and that this application is now in condition for allowance. It is, accordingly, respectfully requested that the Examiner so find and issue a Notice of Allowance in due course.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the Examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

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Respectfully submitted,

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